

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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TAGS: UNCTAD EMIN

SUBJ: UNCTAD PREPARATORY MEETING ON MANGANESE JUNE 13-18, 1977

1. DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS ON MANGANESE
LARGELY INCONCLUSIVE WITH SOLE RECOMMENDATION BEING THAT AD
HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE SHOULD CONSIDER NEED FOR
FUTURE MEETINGS. TEXT OF AGREED CONCLUSIONS AS FOLLOWS:

"IN VIEW OF THE ISSUES RAISED IN THE GENERAL STATEMENTS
CONCERNING THE IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIFIC PROBLEMS BY PRO-
DUCERS OF MANGANESE, IT IS NECESSARY TO IDENTIFY FURTHER
THOSE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE PRODUCTION AND
MARKETING OF MANGANESE AS A PRELIMINARY STEP TO A FUTURE
MEETING OF BOTH CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS.

THE PREPARATORY MEETING THEREFORE RECOMMENDS TO THE AD HOC
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE THAT IT CONSIDER THE NEED FOR
FUTURE MEETINGS."

2. STATEMENTS MADE BY BOTH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS CITED
LACK OF REAL IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEMS IN MANGANESE ORE
MARKETS. ON SIDE OF PRODUCERS THIS REFLECTED IN PART
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MODERATING INFLUENCES OF SOUTH AFRICA AND AUSTRALIA,
BOTH OF WHICH COUNTRIES EXPRESSED PRIVATELY TO USDEL THAT
THEY SAW NO NEED FOR MANGANESE TO BE ON THE IPC LIST AT
ALL, AND IN PART DUE TO NON-EXPERT LEVEL OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF LDC PRODUCERS.

3. U.S. STATEMENT WAS WELL ACCEPTED BY PRODUCERS AND CON-

SUMERS. STATEMENT WAS SUMMARIZED IN FINAL REPORT AS:
"THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ANOTHER CONSUMING COUNTRY (US)
SAID THAT THE FIRST OBJECTIVE AMONG THE TASKS BEFORE THE
MEETING WAS TO IDENTIFY THE PARTICULAR FEATURES OF THE
WORLD MARKET FOR MANGANESE. HOWEVER, SIGNIFICANT
INFORMATION WAS LACKING ON TOPICS SUCH AS: PRODUCTION OF,
AND TRADE IN MANGANESE BY GRADE AND QUALITY,
TRANSPORTATION COSTS, STOCKS, PRICES AND EARNINGS. HE
SUGGESTED THE NEED FOR FURTHER RIGOROUS WORK TO
SUPPLEMENT THE EXISTING INFORMATION SO AS TO IDENTIFY AND
CLARIFY PERCEIVED PROBLEMS AND THAT SUCH A PROGRAM OF
WORK MIGHT ENTAIL FURTHER MEETINGS OF AN EXPERT NATURE.
HE ALSO STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED IT PREMATURE
TO REACH DECISIONS ON ANY INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON
MANAGANESE."

4. AMONG CONSUMERS, FRENCH, IN CONTRAST TO REST OF EC,
TOOK A PARTICULARLY PRO-PRODUCER LINE EXPRESSING FULL
FRENCH SUPPORT FOR 93(IV). FRENCH REITERATED THEIR VIEW
THAT IF ANY INTERNATIONAL ACTION WERE TO BE TAKEN, BOTH
MANGANESE ORES AND ALLOYS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH EQUALLY.
FRENCH AND SOME OTHER ALLOY PRODUCERS POINTED TO
WORLDWIDE OVERCAPACITY AND PRICE DIFFERENTIAL IN FERRO-
MANGANESE, WHICH REPORTEDLY WAS SUBJECT OF HEATED DIS-
CUSSIONIN PRODUCER CAUCUS.

5. GABONESE AMBASSADOR, WHO FIRST APPEARED DURING THE
CLOSING MINUTES OF THE VERY LAST SESSION, MADE A STATE-
MENT URGING CONSIDERATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
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MINIMUM PRICES AND NATIONALLY COORDINATED STOCKPILES.
STATEMENT WAS POORLY RECIEVED, PARTICULARLY BY
CHAIRMAN CUDJOE (GHANA). HALF-HEARTED ATTEMPTS BY LATIN
AMERICAN LDC'S, INCLUDING PERU (CHAIRMAN POINTEDLY
REFERRED TO PERU AS AN "INSIGNIFICANT PRODUCER") TO RALLY
PRODUCERS AROUND FURTHER ACTION BASED ON 93(IV) NEVER
GOT OFF THE GROUND.

6. COMMENT: INFORMAL INDICATIONS FROM SECRETARIAT STAFF
SEEM TO INDICATE THAT THEY WOULD BE PLEASED TO SEE
MANGANESE AND POSSIBLY OTHER OF NON-CORE COMMODITIES
CONSIGNED TO LIMBO. RE-RUN OF MINIMAL INTEREST IN AN
INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY AGREEMENT AMONG THE MINERALS SUCH AS
DISINTEREST DISPLAYED IN THIS MANGANESE PREPARATORY MAY
ALSO BE THE SCENARIO OF THE UPCOMING UNCTAD IRON ORE, BAUXITE,
AND POSSIBLY PHOSPHATE MEETINGS. PRODUCERS ORIGINALLY SOUGHT
LANGUAGE IN CONCLUSIONS REQUESTING AD HOC COMMITTEE TO CALL FOR
UNCTAD-SPONSORED PRODUCER MEETING SUPPORTED BY FURTHER SEC-
RETARIAT DOCUMENTATION. SOME PRODUCERS FELT VERY STRONGLY

THEY COULD NOT HELD ANOTHER PRODUCER-CONSUMER MEETING WITHOUT
FIRST ORGANIZING THEMSELVES AND FELT THIS ONLY POSSIBLE WITH
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT. WHILE CONSUMERS
SUCCEEDED IN DROPPING SUCH SPECIFIC REFERENCES, THERE
IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY AD HOC COMMITTEE WILL BE FACED
WITH THE QUESTION OF THE SECRETARIAT'S ROLE IN MEETINGS
OF ONLY PRODUCERS OR CONSUMERS.SORENSEN

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